

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 258239

12

ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 DODE-00 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-05

NSAE-00 RSC-01 AID-05 IGA-01 EB-07 /035 R

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DOD/ISA/EAP - MR. CONNERS

DOD/DA - LT.COL. MCCARTY

DOD/DSAA - MR. AUGHAVIN

DIST: DSAA, ASD/ISA, JCS

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R 221933Z NOV 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

S E C R E T STATE 258239

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, TH, SN,

SUBJECT: SINGAPORE - M-16 RIFLES

REF: A) SINGAPORE 4545; B) STATE 246198; C) SINGAPORE 4398.

1. DOD OFFICIALS MET WITH COLT ON NOVEMBER 13 AND
REVIEWED THOSE MATTERS THAT COLT HAS A NEED TO KNOW

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 258239

RELATIVE TO PAST AND PROPOSED FUTURE M-16 SALES TO THE

PHILIPPINES AND THAILAND.

2. COLT WAS ADVISED THAT THE USG HAS CONVEYED STRONG OBJECTIONS TO GOS FOR THE UNAUTHORIZED SALE OF 10,000 M-16 RIFLES TO THE PHILIPPINES. COLT EXPRESSED BOTH BITTERNESS AND CONCERN OVER THIS TRANSACTION AND OVER THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVING M-16 PRODUCTION DAA AND ROYALTIES FROM THE GOS.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE REF C REPORT OF THAI INTEREST IN 25,000 M-16S FOR THE ROYAL THAI POLICE, COLT'S POSITION IS ESSENTIALLY THAT NO COMPANY APPROVAL CAN BE PROVIDED UNTIL THE ROYALTY MATTER IS RESOLVED TO COLT'S SATISFACTION, AT WHICH TIME COLT MAY BE WILLING TO APPROVE THE SALE TO THAILAND PROVIDED ALL OR A MAJOR PORTION OF THE COMPONENTS ARE PRODUCED IN THE U.S. FOR ASSEMBLY IN SINGAPORE.

4. REGARDING PROPOSED GOS SALE TO THAILAND, FOLLOWING GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS ARE IMPORTANT:

A. WE HAVE ADVISED CONGRESS THAT M-16 OVERSEAS PRODUCTION PROGRAMS WERE DESIGNED TO SATISFY HOST COUNTRY MILITARY REQUIREMENTS ONLY AND WOULD NOT COMPETE WITH U.S. SALES TO THIRD COUNTRIES. THERE IS CONCERN THAT SINGAPORE'S PROPOSED SALE OF 25,000 M-16 RIFLES TO THAILAND MIGHT ATTRACT CRITICISM FROM CONGRESS AND ORGANIZED LABOR.

B. COLT'S SALES EFFORTS IN THAILAND HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL. COMPANY HAS THEREFORE VERBALLY AUTHORIZED SINGAPORE TO MAKE MARKETING PROBES IN THAILAND.

C. ANY SALE OF M-16S FROM SINGAPORE TO THAILAND MUST HAVE PRIOR APPROVAL OF USG. MOREOVER, COLT OWNS PROPRIETARY RIGHTS OVER OVERSEAS SALES OF M-16, HENCE EFFECTIVELY HAS VETO POWER OVER PROPOSED SALE. USG WILL NOT ACT ON GOS REQUEST TO SELL M-16 TO THAILAND PENDING FORMAL REQUEST FROM COLT.

D. BEFORE APPROVING ANY SALE OF M-16S BY GOS TO THAILAND WE WOULD NEED TO OBTAIN THIRD PARTY TRANSFER ASSURANCES
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 258239

IN WRITING FROM THAI GOVERNMENT.

E. THERE IS GENERAL U.S. STRATEGIC INTEREST IN PROTECTING CONTINUATION OF M-16 PRODUCTION BASE IN U.S.

5. WE CONCUR IN AND HEREBY AUTHORIZE EMBASSY RESPONSE TO GOS ALONG LINES RECOMMENDED REF A, BUT WOULD PREFER EMBASSY REFRAIN FROM COMMENTING ON LIKELY OUTCOME OF GOS

REQUEST OR FROM INFORMING GOS THAT NO OBJECTION TO SALE
PERCEIVED. WE UNDERSTAND COLT IS SENDING CABLE TO GOS
OFFERING TO DISCUSS PROPOSED SALE TO THAILAND. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SMALL ARMS, SALES, ARMS SHIPMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE258239
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PCGILL:DSAA/TS:BOXMAN:LGR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740340-0340
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741119/aaaaapqt.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) SINGAPORE 4545; B) STATE 246198; C) SINGAPORE 4398.
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUL 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <24 MAR 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SINGAPORE - M-16 RIFLES
TAGS: MILI, TH, SN, RP
To: SINGAPORE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005